

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 10 have been amended. Claim 3 is canceled. Claims 11-16 are added. Therefore, claims 1, 2 and 4-16 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Rejection of Claims based on Grabowski in view of Bell.

Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,213,513 (“Grabowski”) in view of GB 2328244 (“Bell”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested because the combination of Grabowski and Bell does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 (as amended) recites “wherein the disengagement prevention mechanism comprises an elastic prevention member configured to be attached to and fixed into position by the latch mechanism when the anchor is engaged with the connector portion.” Claim 10 (as amended) recites a similar feature. Grabowski, Bell, or any combination thereof does not teach or suggest this feature. As pointed out in the Office Action dated April 7, 2006, Grabowski does not teach the claimed disengagement connection mechanism. Bell merely teaches a disengagement connection mechanism that includes a slidable plate 10 that prevents disengagement by relying on the inertia of the plate 10 after the end of the acceleration phase to move over the latch 5 to prevent the latch 5 from lifting. (Page 7 of Bell.) After the pretensioning force has dissipated, the spring 12 returns the plate 10 so that the plate does not cover the latch 5. In contrast, claim 1 and claim 10 require that the disengagement prevention mechanism be fixed into position by the latch mechanism when the anchor is engaged with the connector portion, for example, through the use of apertures on the disengagement prevention mechanism mating with notches on the latching mechanism.

Claim 5 (as amended) recites “wherein the second elastic member is configured to be attached to and fixed into position by a latching mechanism when the anchor is engaged with the pretensioner.” Grabowski, Bell, or a combination thereof does not teach or suggest this

feature. Bell merely teaches a slidable plate 10 that slides over the latching mechanism 5 but does not teach an elastic member attached to and fixed by the latching mechanism 5 for preventing disengagement when the anchor is engaged with the pretensioner.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 9 depend from either claim 1 or claim 5 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims based on Grabowski in view of Bell and Wier.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grabowski in view of Bell, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,179,330 ("Weir"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested because the combination of Grabowski, Bell, and Weir does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed above, Grabowski and Bell do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1. Weir does not cure these deficiencies. Thus, claim 7-8 are allowable therewith, for at least these reasons, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

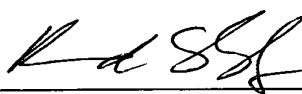
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7/6/2006

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5582
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Howard N. Shipley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,370